

## **Iowa Byways Signage Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1. What does the Iowa Byways signage policy include?**

- The policy explains the concept of wayfinding for travelers and sets out specifications, placement and hierarchy standards based on the federal Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).

### **2. What is the policy basis for Iowa Byways signs?**

- The policy manual is supported by Chapter 306D of the Iowa Code and Chapter 132, Iowa Scenic Byway Program, of the Iowa Administrative Rules.
- In turn, this policy is consistent and integrated with the Iowa DOT Traffic and Safety Manual

### **3. What classification are the byway signs?**

- The Iowa Byways signs and the auxiliary signs that accompany them are considered to be "Traffic Control Devices or "TCD's".
- Iowa Byways signs are not advertising signs.

### **4. What additional installation and use restrictions apply to byway signs?**

- Non-TCD or extraneous signs cannot be placed on their poles. (e.g.: DARE, community award signs, service organizations, neighborhood watch etc.)
- When TCD byway signs are replaced, the old signs are retained by the Iowa DOT and are not available for other uses. Iowa Code Chapter 321.259 prohibits display of TCD's for other purposes.

### **5. What size are the Iowa Byways Signs?**

- Byway logo signs are 24" X 42"
- Auxiliary sign sizes vary from 24" X 12" to 21" x 15".
- Several auxiliary arrow sign MUTCD specifications changed as of 2015 so new installations may vary from old installations. (e.g.:New arrow signs are smaller.)

### **6. Who owns the Iowa Byways Signs?**

- The Iowa DOT owns the Iowa Byways signs.
- Current byway signs were acquired and installed with federal funds, and as such the Iowa DOT has additional restrictions on the disposal of these signs.

### **7. Who is responsible for the Iowa Byways signs?**

- The Iowa Byways Program within the Iowa DOT is responsible for managing the byway signs under this program, with the assistance of state and local stakeholders.
- Local jurisdictions assume certain responsibilities as described in Iowa Byways jurisdiction agreements.

### **8. Who maintains the signs?**

- The Iowa DOT or the jurisdiction responsible for the specific road segment is responsible for ensuring that lost or damaged signs are replaced.
- The Iowa DOT will provide new or replacement byway and auxiliary signs for state and local jurisdictions to install along their segments as needed.
- Replacement poles and miscellaneous hardware for maintenance will be the responsibility of the local jurisdiction.

**9. Is there a byway signs inventory?**

- The Iowa DOT maintains a sign inventory on all state and federal routes.
- The Iowa Byways Program maintains an inventory of the Iowa Byways signs for each byway.
- Each byway has a managing board responsible for sustaining their byway. They may also perform an annual inventory to review the byway signing conditions.

**10. What if signs are vandalized or stolen?**

- Intentionally damaging signage or unauthorized removal is considered a federal offense and is punishable by federal law. Iowa DOT sign placement stickers include a warning that “Any person convicted of defacing, destroying, or removing this sign may be fined up to \$1,500 and/or imprisoned up to 1 year and/or both. “
- The jurisdiction shall do everything possible to apprehend and prosecute offenders who damage or remove signage from its installed locations.
- Replacement signs will be provided by the Iowa DOT to be installed by the jurisdiction.

**11. What is the procedure for receiving replacement signs?**

- Contact the Iowa Byways Program Manager by telephone at 515-239-1369 or via email to [mary.stahlhut@dot.iowa.gov](mailto:mary.stahlhut@dot.iowa.gov) .
- Replacement panels will be shipped from the DOT in Ames to the DOT garage nearest the requesting jurisdictions for pick up.

**12. Where can I access more Iowa Byways signing information online?**

- An informational website has been developed and may be found at the following location: <http://www.iowadot.gov/iowasbyways/signage.html>
- Periodic updates, meeting details and other information for any signing projects underway will be posted here.

**13. How can I get the Iowa Byways logo art work?**

- Iowa Byways signs are registered and protected by trademark law.
- Contact the Iowa Byways Program Manager for usage permission.

**14. Where can I learn more about Iowa Byways?**

- Iowa Byways Program <http://www.iowadot.gov/iowasbyways/index.aspx>
- Iowa Byways traveler information [www.iowabyways.org](http://www.iowabyways.org)